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DANGER IS REAL

Charles V. Stanton

As a rule we pay little attention to anonymous letters. An unsigned communication usually goes into "File 13" without ceremony. If a person's ideas are not worth his signature, we seldom are interested.

We recently received one such letter, however, that disturbs us.

Our correspondent picks up the report made in this column of the inroads being made into our timber resource by the Douglas fir bark beetle. Because the Weyerhaeuser Timber company cooperated with state and federal agencies in conducting an aerial survey, our correspondent is "fairly burning and fuming." He launches a long tirade against the Weyerhaeuser Company and advises, "Don't let all this ballyhoo, with Weyerhaeuser at the helm, get you all excited."

We are aware that Weyerhaeuser's bigness and some of its past operations produce intolerant suspicion, jealousy, and dislike in the minds of some people. The survey, however, probably would not have been possible without Weyerhaeuser's financial assistance, and, considering the fact that the mapping was not confined to the Weyerhaeuser holdings, that company is to be commended rather than criticized for its cooperation.

Compacency Is Dangerous

What worries us most, however, is the complacency with which the threat of critical resource loss is accepted. Our correspondent actually pooh-poos the idea of danger, and passes the whole thing off as a Weyerhaeuser fabrication to promote the purchase of cheap timber.

We are wondering if any other person in this county is of the same opinion. We doubt if we have many such blind, narrow-minded individuals. Perhaps, however, there are others who feel inclined to discount the danger which threatens our economy. If so, we suggest they start making a little independent inquiry. They will learn that we will lose enough timber in the next few years to feed several large sawmills.

Bark beetle infestation is worse in Douglas County than in any other part of the state. Millions of feet of timber will be lost through infestation unless we can get access roads permitting salvage. Because much of the infestation is in remote regions, hard to reach, the road program will be costly. It also will be too late unless large sums of money for immediate construction are forthcoming without delay.

Heavy blowdowns during the past winter add to the breeding grounds for the beetle. Last year's drought has weakened the resistance of forests. Consequently we may expect the infestation to get worse before the natural cycle of resistance reduces its inroads.

Salvage Still Possible

Control of the infestation may be obtained by removing trees blown down by wind and those killed by beetles. The trees so destroyed will have merchantable values for as long as five years. But it will take us at least that long, with unlimited money, to build the required access roads. Providing we can get roads and can salvage the damaged timber, we will be able to reduce breeding grounds for the insects and, at the same time, recover merchantable values remaining in the damaged stumpage. Unless we get roads, the beetle will continue to spread for several more years until natural tree resistance breaks down the overpopulation of the insects. Should we get additional blowdowns, fires or another dry season, the beetles will continue to gain in population.

The situation is indeed critical and every resident of the county should be fully aware of the situation. Personal prejudices, likes or dislikes should not be allowed to rationalize the situation.

We are facing a grave danger to our economy—a danger that has experienced foresters and timber operators worried. It is quite certain that public help will be needed in efforts to convince Congress of the need for more road funds to meet the emergency.

No private grudge should be permitted to interfere, through misdirection, with a unified community effort, if such effort be called for.

"Ridiculous! They Don't Know How to Vote"



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

CHICAGO — With nearly all the primary races behind them, presidential candidates are beginning to concentrate on state conventions where delegates are comparatively few in number but vitally important when the time comes for political horsetrading here in July.

One remaining primary is South Dakota's. And the early front runner, Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, now finds himself in a horse race with General Dwight D. Eisenhower as they near the June 3rd deadline.

South Dakota is normally a lopsided Republican state and there are no indications of anything different happening this November in the presidential elections. However, the state has shifted its political emphasis from strict non-interference in international matters to a wider view of the world. Much of this is due to war veterans and an increased number of college graduates who benefited from the GI bill. They are now taking places of leadership in their communities.

Eisenhower is popular with this segment of the population. He also is fortunate in having as his political mentor ex-Governor George Mickelson, who recently retired after two successful terms. Mickelson is a shrewd political manager and is credited with getting the Eisenhower bandwagon rolling.

Taft, who would normally be expected to pick up major strength among farm residents, is still the victim of a fatal error made by the 80th Congress. Farmers have not forgotten the failure of that GOP-controlled legislature to provide them with adequate funds for crop storage.

Eisenhower's silence prior to the June 3 primary is assured. So he does have the advantage of not having to comment on this and other issues.

The state elects 14 delegates in June. Taft is the only name on the ballot in the nomination contest. Eisenhower's delegates are listed as those having no political preference, but this is a familiar political myth corrected long ago by ex-Governor Mickelson.

Eisenhower's supporters are predicting a two-to-one victory in the state. This is pre-election wishful thinking, but his backers obviously do have something to bolster their courage.

Taft's people predict victory also. They are doing less talking now, however, and more field work.

Brink's Robbery Suspect Victim Of Gun Slaying

WEST WARWICK, R. I. — A man identified as the main suspect in the unsolved \$129,000 Brink's robbery in Boston 28 months ago, was slain by shotgun blasts outside his home early Saturday.

The body of Carlton M. O'Brien, 49, a roadside proprietor, was found near his car about 6 a.m. and Police Chief Hector Groleau said he had been murdered.

Providence police quickly picked up another man, once questioned in connection with another slaying. Police did not identify the man.

Both O'Brien and the man nabbed by Providence police were named, Kelly said, as Brink's robbers by Alfred A. Gagnon who was interviewed in Rhode Island State Prison at Howard May 14.

among the voters. His forces lack effective leadership, but last-minute plans have been laid to strengthen it.

Political experts in the state with whom I have talked simply say it will be a close contest. They are as surprised as Eisenhower's campaign at the recent upsurge of support for the general. They attribute it in part to appeals made for him in larger communities. In almost every city the population has jumped, with young men and women coming off the farms to city jobs. Increased use of farm machinery and ample job opportunities are taking them into the cities.

The delegate race between Taft and Eisenhower is close. South Dakota's 14 votes will look awfully good to either side at convention time if the race continues the way it is now going.

Hear Fulton Lewis Daily On KRNR, 9:15 P.M.

GI Ammunition In Korea Placed On Ration Basis

WASHINGTON — A dispatch from the Far East Command of the Army to headquarters here says that "ammunition is plentiful," but is rationed "to save money and maintain ammunition reserve."

The message was received here last Saturday, before testimony Monday by Gen. J. Lawton Collins to a Congressional committee considering military appropriations.

In that testimony, Collins said some types of ammunition had been rationed because "production still does not equal normal battle expenditures, and the World War II stocks either have been exhausted or have approached exhaustion."

The Far East Command dispatch said ammunition is rationed "but allocations are considered adequate in the present tactical situation."

Such allocation of ammunition "is a normal military precaution," the dispatch said. It added there was no restriction limiting the use of artillery ammunition only to emergencies and declared the "Eighth Army fires much more ammunition daily than the Communists do."

The dispatch was in comment on a published report of ammunition and vehicle shortages.

The Far East Command said that both vehicles and ammunition are in adequate supply but that "there are, of course, local temporary shortages."

It mentioned, among the "occasional temporary shortages" in the past, shortages of hand grenades.

Gen. Collins, Army chief of staff, told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee that House cuts already voted in military spending would wreck the Army's security program.

Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH,
M. C., 4th Oregon District

Very soon the members of the U.S. House of Representatives will be required to make what I believe is the most serious and troublesome decision of this session. I refer to the bill, now before us, which authorizes the appropriation of seven billions of dollars for our foreign economic and military aid programs for the coming fiscal year which begins July 1.

No member of Congress is generally qualified to judge the exact amount of money actually needed to supply the necessary minimum amount of aid to the foreign countries which are endeavoring to fight off Russian communism. I use the phrase "necessary minimum" because that is the problem exactly—we do not want to do more than necessary, but under the circumstances we should continue the program of help.

What is necessary? The only answer we have is the one given (and stoutly defended) by the President upon advice of the State Department and military experts in the field. If I had complete confidence in those people and their wisdom, my answer would be easily arrived at. Unfortunately I do not have that confidence. I think they have asked not only for more than they think is needed but actually more than they can spend. In cold truth, I think they figured Congress would make a big cut in whatever sum they requested so they simply submitted a figure large enough so that when a big cut is made they will still have what they think they really need!!

I have what I consider pretty good grounds for my suspicions. First, I have seen this same identical thing done by the budget makers of other departments, not once but numerous times. It has come to be quite an accepted technique. But the more important fact is that the foreign aid spenders have not been able to spend all the money appropriated for their programs in previous years. For example, they began this fiscal year with an unexpended balance of more than twelve and one-half BILLIONS. Then in addition they had the \$7.3 billion which was appropriated for the present fiscal year. Now it is estimated (in the committee report) that the unexpended balance left from funds previously appropriated will be EIGHTEEN BILLIONS at the end of this fiscal year.

The quick answer to this strange situation is that the appropriated funds have all been "obligated." But that does not account for the fact that the unexpended balance grows amazingly each year. This program has been in operation for several years. They should have filled the "pipeline" and have hit a semblance of balance by this time.

Accordingly, even if we were not in financial trouble ourselves and burdened with almost confiscatory taxes, I would want to see the requested amount sharply reduced. Under the circumstances it is ESSENTIAL to cut it down.

Congress will have another knot-

Half-Buried Couple Rescued From Swamp

ORANGE, Tex. (AP)—A Vinton, La., couple lost in a Sabine river swamp north of Orange since Sunday afternoon were found alive Tuesday in mud up to their armpits.

They are Mr. and Mrs. M. B. (Jonnie) Johnson, both about 35. They were reported in serious

condition from exposure. More than 200 persons, equipped with boats, an airplane and short wave radio had searched for the couple.

They had set out on the Sabine in a small home-made skiff Sunday at 2 p.m.

It was learned that swift current jammed the boat between two trees at the water's edge and the Johnsons abandoned it. They became lost.

ly problem on its hands before long. Perhaps you have forgotten about it, but the President seized and has been operating the railroads of the country for some 20 months. The seizure was made under emergency war powers contained in a 1916 law. The roads were seized to avert a rail strike. The disagreement between the Railroad Companies and the Unions has not been settled. The war emergency authority expires the first of June—unless it is renewed—and the seizure of the roads will end. What should Congress do, let the authority expire which would probably precipitate a rail strike, or should we legalize a more or less perpetual "seizure state?" I shall have further comment on this later.

"ALL CLEAN" LOW MILEAGE

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How many duplications of names there are! Smith River in California, for instance, is named after the same Jedediah Smith so familiar to anyone who has read Douglas County's early history. Seems Jedediah got into trouble down there in what is now California and came up north to the Umpqua, and his party got in trouble again with the Indians up here. So, two beautiful rivers bear his name! Oh, yes, there is a redwood grove in his memory too. Isn't it a wonderful idea to "save the redwoods" by memorializing people and organizations the way they have done and are doing?

I was just reading that "Hawaii's first coast redwood tree—88 feet tall and 14 inches in diameter—has been felled and gone to the mill. It has been thriving in Hawaii for 25 years, one of a thousand yearlings transplanted from California. Foresters report, "says the National Geographic Society, "that the trees have grown remarkably well. Coast redwood is called Sequoia sempervirens, is not as tall as the Sequoia up in the Sierra, but has plenty of girth. OREGON GUIDE says "diameter up to 30 feet!"

We stopped in a redwood grove and walked around, a grove on the Smith River, and oh, it was so lovely in there. Quiet of a cathedral, with the river rushing over the rocks around a gravel bar for the organ music. We were early, and had the grove, at least where we were in it, to ourselves. We had planned to go to church in California but we wanted an early start home, so stopped in the redwoods:

"The groves were God's first temples. Ere man learned To hew the shaft, and lay the architrave, And spread the roof above them—ere he framed The lofty vault, to gather and the sound of anthems; in the darkling wood. Amid the cool and silence, he knelt down, And offered to the Mightiest soul—em thanks And supplication . . . (Wm. C. Bryant)

CHARGE DISMISSED

Charges against Herbert G. Lei, 25, Portland seaman, have been dismissed on recommendation of Deputy District Attorney Donald S. Kelley.

Lei has been charged with threatening a felony and armed assault in connection with a waterfront brawl at Reedsport last week.